

U.S. App. No.: 10/618,796
Filed: July 14, 2003

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A sample testing device, comprising:

a buffer container having an interior which receives a buffer fluid therein and a weakened portion;

~~a filter having a securement;~~

a test strip having an end ~~held by said securement;~~

a filter holding the end of the test strip;

a test strip container having a receptacle dimensioned and disposed to accommodate said filter, so that when said filter is accommodated by said test strip container, the test strip is disposed in said receptacle;

a sample collector for holding a sample therein and which is shaped to receive said buffer container, said sample collector having a channeling member having a lumen, wherein when the buffer container is squeezed, the weakened portion fails and the buffer fluid in the interior of the buffer chamber contacts the sample and passes through the lumen to said filter, wherein as the buffer fluid flows through the lumen of the sample collector, the buffer fluid that ~~has contacted the sample~~ ~~passes contacts the sample and then flows directly through the filter to the test~~ strip.

2. (original) The sample testing device of claim 1, wherein said test strip is oriented substantially perpendicular to said filter.

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3. (original) The sample testing device of claim 1, wherein said buffer container has a threaded outer surface and said sample collector has a threaded inner surface, the threaded outer surface engaging the threaded inner surface when the buffer container and the sample collector are joined.

4. (original) The sample testing device of claim 1, wherein said buffer container has a projection and said sample collector has a depression, the projection engaging the depression when the buffer container and the sample collector are joined.

5. (original) The sample testing device of claim 1, wherein a top portion of said buffer container is bellowed, and wherein when said top portion is compressed, at least a portion of the buffer fluid is expelled from the buffer container.

6. (original) The sample testing device of claim 1, wherein the buffer fluid is sealed within said buffer container.

7. (original) The sample testing device of claim 1, wherein said buffer container comprises a compressible grip, and wherein when said grip is compressed, at least a portion of the buffer fluid is expelled from the buffer container.

8. (original) The sample testing device of claim 1, wherein said test strip container has a viewing window through which the test strip is visible.

9. (original) The sample testing device of claim 1, wherein said test strip container comprises a cover and a body, and said cover and said body are joined together.

10. (original) The sample testing device of claim 9, wherein said cover and said body are joined together in fluid-tight fashion.

11. (previously presented) A method for testing a sample, comprising the steps of:

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obtaining a sample to be tested;

placing the sample in a sample collector;

positioning a buffer container having a buffer fluid therein above the sample collector;

positioning the sample container above a filter, the filter having a test strip secured thereto below;

causing the buffer fluid to flow downward from the buffer container over the sample and through the filter over the test strip.

12. (original) A method for testing a sample as in claim 11, wherein said causing step comprises urging the buffer container downward to contact and be pierced by a piercing member.

13. (original) A method for testing a sample as in claim 11, wherein said causing step comprises compressing the buffer container so that a weakened portion of the buffer container ruptures.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising positioning the test strip in a test strip container such that the test strip is not in contact with the sides of the container when the container is positioned in an upright manner.

15. (previously presented) The sample testing device of claim 1, wherein said test strip is oriented substantially below said filter when the device is positioned in an upright manner.

16 (previously presented) The sample testing device of claim 1, wherein said test strip is held by the securement so as not to be in contact with sides of said receptacle when the testing device is positioned in an upright manner.

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17. (currently amended) A sample testing device, comprising:

a buffer container having an interior which receives a buffer fluid therein and a weakened portion;

~~a filter having a securement;~~

~~a test strip held by said securement so as to be disposed below the filter, having an end;~~

a filter holding the end of the test strip, the test strip positioned below the filter when the testing device is positioned in an upright manner;

a test strip container having a receptacle dimensioned and disposed to accommodate said filter, so that when said filter is accommodated by said test strip container, the test strip is disposed in said receptacle, the test strip being held by the securement so as not to be in contact with sides of said receptacle when the testing device is positioned in an upright manner.

a sample collector holding a sample between the buffer container and the filter, wherein when the weakened portion is caused to fail, then the buffer fluid flows into contact with the sample and then flows directly through the filter to the test strip.